

UNDERSTANDING  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

ABOUT AVONEX

Benefits of AVONEX

Proven Effective MS  
Treatment

Importance of Early  
Treatment

Long Term Results

MS Treatments

MS Pills: Weigh Your  
Options

Therapy That Fits Your  
Routine

Treatment You Can Stay  
On

Real AVONEX Stories

IMPORTANT SAFETY  
INFORMATION

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

LIVING WITH MS

CAREGIVER

MS RESOURCE CENTER

Create a Profile

New user? Please register.  
Already registered? [Sign in](#)

To view this content,  
JavaScript must be enabled,  
and you need the latest version  
of the Adobe Flash Player.

[Download the free Flash Player now!](#)



## Long Term Results

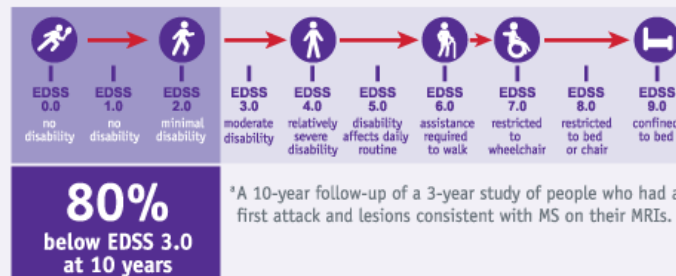
### AVONEX may help you stay active and able longer

Treating multiple sclerosis is an ongoing commitment, so it's important to find an effective MS therapy that can keep working for you. Once-a-week AVONEX delayed the progression of physical disability by 37% in a 2 year study. This means that by taking AVONEX you can continue to live well and do the things you enjoy.

Your doctor or nurse may use the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) to measure how you are doing. The scale measures disability progression by looking at various functional areas including your ability to walk. Areas include:

- Brain function
- Coordination skills
- Bowel and bladder function
- Sensory and motor symptoms
- Visual symptoms
- Ability to walk

In a long-term follow up study <sup>a</sup>, **8 out of 10** people taking AVONEX had an EDSS score below **3.0 at 10 years**, which means they were still active and able.



<sup>a</sup>A 10-year follow-up of a 3-year study of people who had a first attack and lesions consistent with MS on their MRIs.

FDA-approved labeling includes up to 3 years of clinical data.

#### Indication

AVONEX® (interferon beta-1a) is approved by FDA to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS) to decrease the number of flare-ups and slow the occurrence of some of the physical disability that is common in people with MS. AVONEX is approved for use in people who have experienced a first attack and have lesions consistent with MS on their MRI.

#### Important Safety Information

Before beginning treatment, patients should discuss with their doctor the potential benefits and risks associated with AVONEX. Let your doctor know if you have a history of or currently experience depression or other mood disorders, seizures, liver disease, thyroid, heart, or blood cell count or bleeding problems, or if you have had previous allergic reactions to interferon beta.

Potential serious side effects of AVONEX include depression, mood disorders, allergic reactions, seizures, and liver, blood, thyroid, or heart problems. If you experience any of these symptoms: feeling sad, easy bruising or bleeding, yellowing of the skin and/or eyes, difficulty breathing, hives, rashes or itching, feeling tired or swelling of the mouth, tongue, or ankles call your doctor immediately.

The most common side effects with AVONEX are flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, sweating, muscle aches, and tiredness) early during the course of therapy. Usually, these symptoms last for a day after the injection. Talk to your doctor if these symptoms continue longer than the first few months of therapy, or if they are difficult to manage.

AVONEX is not recommended for women who are or plan to become pregnant. If you become pregnant while taking AVONEX, you should stop taking AVONEX immediately, tell your doctor, and consider enrolling in the AVONEX Pregnancy Registry by calling 1-800-455-7255.

and consider enrolling in the AVONEX Pregnancy Registry by calling 1-800-400-2200.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For additional important safety information, please see the full [Prescribing Information](#) and [Medication Guide](#). This information is not intended to replace discussions with your doctor.



©2010 Biogen Idec. This site is intended for patients who are residents of the United States, Puerto Rico, and US territories. AVONEX and MS ActiveSource® are registered trademarks of Biogen Idec.

[Sitemap](#) | [Medication Guide](#) | [Prescribing Information](#) | [Important Safety Information](#) | [Legal Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [BiogenIdec](#)


 [search](#)

Recently diagnosed with MS?

Is your therapy right for you?

Already taking AVONEX?

## UNDERSTANDING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

### ABOUT AVONEX

#### Benefits of AVONEX

Proven Effective MS Treatment

Importance of Early Treatment

Long Term Results

#### MS Treatments

MS Pills: Weigh Your Options

► Therapy That Fits Your Routine

► Treatment You Can Stay On

► Real AVONEX Stories

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### SERVICES AND SUPPORT

### LIVING WITH MS

### CAREGIVER

### MS RESOURCE CENTER

[Create a Profile](#)

New user? Please register.  
Already registered? [Sign in](#)

To view this content,  
JavaScript must be enabled,  
and you need the latest version  
of the Adobe Flash Player.

[Download the free Flash Player now!](#)



# Multiple Sclerosis Treatments

When you are first diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, you may wonder which therapy is the best one for you. Work with your doctor to determine your goals for multiple sclerosis treatment and choose a therapy that will help keep you living on your own terms.

Experts agree that starting multiple sclerosis treatment early means you have a better chance of slowing down physical disability progression. By starting AVONEX, you are taking a positive step towards a full and active life.

## Not all relapsing MS treatments are the same

AVONEX is the only once-a-week multiple sclerosis treatment proven to slow physical disability, reduce flare-ups, and work after the first attack.

MS therapy	AVONEX® (interferon beta-1a)	Copaxone® (glatiramer acetate)	Rebif® (interferon beta-1a)	Betaseron®/Extavia® (interferon beta-1b)
Year of FDA approval	1996	1996	2002	1993/2009
Slows physical disability progression	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No
Reduces flare-ups	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Effective after the first attack <sup>a</sup>	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes
Method of administration	Intramuscular injection	Subcutaneous injection	Subcutaneous injection	Subcutaneous injection
Doses per year	52	365	156	183
Available as prefilled syringes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No

<sup>a</sup> People with MS in whom effectiveness has been demonstrated include people who have experienced a first attack and have lesions consistent with MS on their MRIs.

### Indication

AVONEX® (interferon beta-1a) is approved by FDA to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS) to decrease the number of flare-ups and slow the occurrence of some of the physical disability that is common in people with MS. AVONEX is approved for use in people who have experienced a first attack and have lesions consistent with MS on their MRIs.

### Important Safety Information

Before beginning treatment, patients should discuss with their doctor the potential benefits and risks associated with AVONEX. Let your doctor know if you have a history of or currently experience depression or other mood disorders, seizures, liver disease, thyroid, heart, or blood cell count or bleeding problems, or if you have had previous allergic reactions to interferon beta.

Potential serious side effects of AVONEX include depression, mood disorders, allergic reactions, seizures, and liver, blood, thyroid, or heart problems. If you experience any of these symptoms: feeling sad, easy bruising or bleeding, yellowing of the skin and/or eyes, difficulty breathing, hives, rashes or itching, feeling tired or swelling of the mouth, tongue, or ankles call your doctor immediately.

The most common side effects with AVONEX are flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, sweating, muscle aches, and tiredness) early during the course of therapy. Usually, these symptoms last for a day after the injection. Talk to your doctor if these symptoms continue longer than the first few months of therapy, or if they are difficult to manage.

AVONEX is not recommended for women who are or plan to become pregnant. If you become pregnant while taking AVONEX, you should stop taking AVONEX immediately, tell your doctor, and consider enrolling in the AVONEX Pregnancy Registry by calling 1-800-456-7255.

and consider enrolling in the AVONEX Pregnancy Registry by calling 1-800-400-2200.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For additional important safety information, please see the full [Prescribing Information](#) and [Medication Guide](#). This information is not intended to replace discussions with your doctor.



©2010 Biogen Idec. This site is intended for patients who are residents of the United States, Puerto Rico, and US territories. AVONEX and MS ActiveSource® are registered trademarks of Biogen Idec.

[Sitemap](#) | [Medication Guide](#) | [Prescribing Information](#) | [Important Safety Information](#) | [Legal Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [BiogenIdec](#)